

THE PORK SUPPLY.—PROF. OSLER'S INVESTIGATIONS.

Dr. Wm. Osler, Prof. of Physiology, medical department McGill University, Montreal, has made some extensive investigations into the condition of the pork supply of that city;—reported in the *Canada Med. and Surg. Journal*. One thousand hogs, taken indiscriminately, chiefly from the Dominion Abattoir, were subjected to examination microscopically.

TRICHINOSIS, he believes, from "the somewhat limited number of observations," is a tolerably common affection in Canadian swine, though not nearly so frequent as in the neighboring States. Although a larger number of swine are infested here than in Germany, trichinosis in man is with us a very rare disease, while in Germany epidemics are of yearly occurrence. This the doctor attributes to the fact that here pork is usually well cooked before it is eaten. "The prophylaxis of the pot and oven in this country and in the neighboring States does more for the public than the most stringent inspection, as carried out in Prussia."

CYSTICERCUS CELLULOSÆ is not so formidable as the trichina, but is more common and a more frequent excitor of disease. It is the larval or immature form of one of the tapeworms of man, and is popularly known as the "measle." Man is infested with two chief forms of tapeworm, the *Tenia solium* and the *Tenia saginata*—the former derived from measley pork, the latter from measley veal or beef; hence the one is often called the *pork* and the other the *beef* tapeworm. Dr. Osler issued circulars to the city physicians and made other enquiries and believes he will probably be within the mark if he estimates the number of cases in Montreal as not far short of 200. How many of these are due to eating measley veal or beef, and how many to measley pork, he could not say, but from the specimens examined it would seem that the beef tapeworm is the more prevalent.

Among other of his conclusions are the following: In the matter of meat inspection, there are some affections in which an ante-mortem examination will be of most service, as an animal may be condemned as unfit for food, the meat of which, when dressed, might pass even a careful inspector. There are other affections which, interfering but slightly with the general healthfulness of an animal, render its flesh in the highest degree unfit for food, even though it may, on superficial inspection, look healthy enough.